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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,807	12/05/2001	Hideyuki Takeda	NAK1-BQ68	8576

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EXAMINER

BENGZON, GREG C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/007,807	TAKEDA, HIDEYUKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Greg Bengzon	2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-7,9-20 and 27-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-7,9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

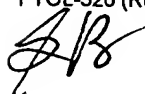
- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |



DETAILED ACTION

This application has been examined. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-20, and 27-32 are pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of a certified copy of the 2000-372072 (JAPAN) application referred to in the oath or declaration or in an application data sheet.

The effective date of the subject matter claimed in this application is December 6, 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 14-20 cite 'event start time that indicates... events started by two or more apparatuses on the network' and 'transmitting triggers to each of the one or more target apparatuses to start executing the one or more events simultaneously'.

The Applicant Specifications Page 4 Lines 5-10 indicate that the triggers are transmitted to two or more apparatuses so that the two or more apparatuses start executing the one or more events simultaneously. The Applicant Specifications Page 9 Lines 5-10 indicates that the event start time indicates events started by two or more apparatuses.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-32 allowed.

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The provisions in the Claims reciting a time managing apparatus that manages times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the time managing apparatus comprising —

a presetting information receiving means for receiving, from outside, presetting information which contains as a pair, (i) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by two or more target apparatuses on the network, and (ii) a module identifier that identifies, as an output source of a standard time one of the plurality of timer modules in the target

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apparatuses, and further contains, for each event, one or more apparatus identifiers of one or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the network, that should execute the event;

a holding means for holding the presetting information received by the presetting information receiving means;

a time requesting means for requesting a timer module, which is identified by the module identifier held by the holding means, to transmit a standard time;

a time receiving means for receiving the standard time from the timer module requested by the time requesting means, to transmit the standard time;

a judging means for judging whether the event start time is reached, by comparing the standard time received by the time receiving means with the event start time indicated by the event start time information held by the holding means; and

an instructing means for, when the judging means judges that the event start time is reached, identifying the one or more target apparatuses by one or more apparatus identifiers held by the holding means and

transmitting triggers to each of the two or more target apparatuses to start executing the one or more events simultaneously.

-- wherein aforementioned features are combined into one embodiment, is not fairly taught by the prior art.

The Applicant's claimed embodiments, unlike any of the cited art, disclose presetting information that contains, as a pair, an event start time and a timer module

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identifier, as specified in Applicant Specifications Page 3 Lines 20-25. The Applicant's claimed embodiments, unlike any of the cited art, disclose that the receiving side of the standard time send the transmitting side a request to acquire the timer clock source, as indicated in Applicant Specifications, Page 47 Lines 15-25, Figure 9, and Page 58 Lines 5-25 . Furthermore, the cited art in combination, do not disclose the process of selecting a timer module, as specified in the Applicant Specification Figure 5, Page 39 Lines 15-25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

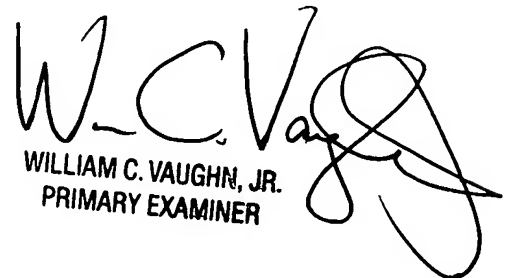
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Bengzon whose telephone number is (571) 272-3944. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571)272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gcb


WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

